

Dear SIC Members and Supporters:

This issue of *SIC Clips & Quips* (Volume 3, Issue 4) is sent to you highlight certain key pieces of South Carolina legislation which may be of interest to you.

State House Update – Compiled from various sources, here's a sampling of bills related to education now before the House and Senate:

- The House Ways & Means Property Tax subcommittee voted (3-2) on March 8 voted to approve **H.3713** (Point-of-Sale). This bill repeals the point-of-sale provision from Act 388. The State Budget and Control Board estimates that if enacted, the bill would negatively impact school districts, counties and cities by \$52 million per year. Because the bill is retro-active to 2007, the first year's fiscal impact to schools, counties and cities is estimated by some to be \$260 million. The bill will next go to the full Ways & Means Committee.
- Also on March 8, the Ways & Means General Government, Personnel and Benefits interrupted debate on **H.3407** (Educational Opportunity Act), a voucher/tuition tax credit bill. Bill supporters were allowed to address the subcommittee for more than 30 minutes before the meeting was halted.
- On March 8, the House Education and Public Works K-12 subcommittee gave a favorable report to the following bills: **H.3748** (Education and Economic Development Act), which extends the date by which the Act must be fully implemented to July 1, 2016; **H.3035** (Length of School Term), which would allow local school districts to establish their calendars based on 180 days of instruction or an equivalent number of instructional hours; and **H.3028** (Teacher Contracts), which deals with the induction, annual and continuing contracts for teachers.
- The full House on March 8 amended and gave second reading approval to **H.3716** (Education Finance Act of 2011), by a vote of 101 to 6. On March 9, the bill received third reading and was sent to the Senate and assigned to the Education Committee.
- On March 9, the Senate Education K-12 subcommittee discussed the following bills: **S.642** (End of Course Science Requirement), which clarifies the science course requirement for receiving a South Carolina high school diploma (the bill was adopted and sent to the full Education Committee; **S.432** (Consolidated School Districts Study Committee), which would create a study committee to study the consolidation of school districts within individual counties (the bill was adopted and sent to the full Education Committee; **S.528** (Model Dating Violence Policy), which requires the State Department of Education to develop a model dating violence policy to assist school districts in developing their own policies for reporting and responding to dating violence (this bill was carried over until the next subcommittee meeting; **S.566** (Definitions of Safe Schools Climate Act), which amends the definition of harassment and the section pertaining to local district policies on procedures and reporting requirements for acts of harassment, and requires districts to link the policy on the home page of the district's website and to distribute it annually to parents and guardians who have children enrolled in the district (this bill was carried over until the next subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee heard testimony from State Education Superintendent Dr. Mick Zais on bill **H.3241** (Charter Schools), but due to time constraints, the subcommittee carried over the bill until the next meeting when additional testimony can be heard.
- On March 9, the Senate Education Committee amended and reported out favorably **S.433** (Education Funding Reform), a bill offered by the Senate Select Committee on K-

12 funding to enact significant changes to the Education Finance Act of 1977. This bill will likely next be sent to the Senate Finance Committee for study. The Education Committee also adopted **S.642** (End of Course Science Requirement) and **S.432** (Consolidated School Districts Study Committee), sent to it by the Senate Education K-12 subcommittee.

- On Monday, March 14, the House floor debate of **H.3700** (FY2011-12 General Appropriations Bill) will begin. The House is scheduled to convene at 11:00 a.m. and to stay until a budget is passed.
- The Senate Education K-12 subcommittee has scheduled a public hearing Wednesday, March 16 (9:00 a.m., Gressette Building, Room 105) on the Senate version of the voucher/tuition tax credit bill, **S.414** (Educational Opportunity Act).
- On Thursday, March 17 (9:00 a.m., Gressette Building, Room 207), the Senate Education K-12 subcommittee will meet to address the three bills carried over from its March 9 meeting (**S.528**, **S.566** and **H.3241**).

More information, including the full text of bills, is available online at www.scstatehouse.gov.

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Tom